

MAY 22 1989

DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

STAN STEPHENS, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

FAX # (406) 444-2606

May 17, 1989

HELENA, MONTANA 59620

Re: Preliminary Environmental Review  
Coram Motors

Guy Mobbley, Coram Motors, P.O. Box 155, Coram, MT 59913  
U.S. Forest Service, Glacier View Dist. Headquarters, 774 Railroad  
Street EN, Columbia Falls, MT, 59912  
Packers Roost, Highway 2 East, Coram  
Freda Nanson, Coram  
Glen Grey, Flathead County Health Dept., 723 5th Ave. East, Kalispell  
Steve Herbally, Zoning Administrator, Flathead Regional Development Office,  
723 5th Avenue East, Room 414, Kalispell, MT 59901  
Tom Ellerhoff, Environmental Sciences Division, DHES, Helena  
Environmental Quality Council, Capital Complex, Helena  
Documents Section, State Library, Capital Complex, Helena

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 16.2.604, the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning Mr. Guy L. Mobbley/dba/Coram Motors.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15) days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within the allotted time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John C. Geach".

John C. Geach  
Solid & Hazardous Waste Bureau  
Telephone (406) 444-2821

Encl.  
JG/ba

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PLEASE RETURN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES  
Cogswell Building, Helena, Montana 59601  
(406) 444-2821

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences/Solid & Hazardous Waste Bureau  
Project or Application Coram Motors proposed motor vehicle wrecking facility  
Description of Project Mr. Guy L. Mobbley/dba/Coram Motors has submitted a license application to this Department to establish a motor vehicle wrecking facility in Section 33, T31N, R19W in Flathead County. The general description of this property would be one (1) mile south of Coram (see attached map). This environmental assessment is being conducted in compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act MCA 75-1-101 et seq. The purpose of this assessment is to identify and quantify the potential environmental impacts which may occur from the establishment of the proposed facility.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats			X			X
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution			X			X
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality			X			X
5. Aesthetics				X		X
6. Air quality				X		
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
9. Historical and archaeological sites				X		X

# POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue			X			X
4. Agricultural or industrial production			X			X
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income			X			X
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity and distribution of employment			X			X
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services			X			X
11. Industrial & commercial activity			X			X
12. Demands for energy				X		
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals				X		
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows			X			X

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction Flathead County Junk Vehicle Program

Individuals or groups contributing to this PER. Flathead County Regional Planning Office, Flathead County Health Department

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS not necessary

PER Prepared by: John C. Geach

Date: 5/12/89

## Coram Motors - Preliminary Environmental Review

### General Comments

The State Department of Health licenses and regulates motor vehicle wrecking facilities under authority of the Montana Motor Vehicle Recycling and Disposal Act (75-10-501 MCA) and Administrative Rules (16.14.201 ARM).

To be eligible for licensing a proposed wrecking facility must:

- 1) Be in compliance with all existing zoning ordinances on the date the license application is submitted to the department.
- 2) Be capable of being shielded from view of any existing public road. If the license application is approved, the applicant must construct all necessary shielding prior to licensure.
- 3) Not create any significant adverse environmental impacts.

The department has made the preliminary determination the applicant is in compliance with existing zoning ordinances and can effectively shield the proposed facility from all public roads in the area. The purpose of the PER is to determine if this proposed motor vehicle wrecking facility can be established without posing significant adverse environmental impacts.

The applicant wishes to license and establish a motor vehicle wrecking facility on his property 1 mile south of Coram, MT in Section 33, T31N, R19W. The proposed wrecking facility would be located approximately 1/8 mile to the east of the Coram Motors shop building. This location is on the western crest of a hill and would be naturally shielded by existing evergreen trees. The applicant owns 55 acres at this location and is proposing to license an old logging clear cut area approximately 1 acre in size. This area would hold approximately 100 vehicles. The applicant would have the right to expand this area in the future. Future expansions would require the approval of this department and compliance with applicable local zoning ordinances.

### Potential Impact On Physical Environment

1. Terrestrial and aquatic life and habitats
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality

The proposed wrecking facility location is an old timber clear cut. The vegetation in the area consists of native grasses and small shrubs. Wildlife inhabitants likely include small rodents, squirrels, and rabbits. This area may also occasionally be visited by deer, elk and bear.

The establishment of a motor vehicle wrecking facility at this location will remove a portion of the ground cover vegetation and disrupt the



territorial foraging of the area's wildlife. Due to the abundance of similar terrain, vegetation and habitat adjacent to this location, these impacts are not expected to be significant.

## 2. Water quality, quantity and distribution

The soils in this area consist of loamy topsoil of 4 to 2 inches in depth overlaying gravelly clay and cobble clay loams. The permeability of these soils is moderately slow at approximately 6 minutes per inch. Ground water is typically encountered at 6 to 8 feet.

The site slopes approximately 3 to 5 percent to the west. No major surface drainages are evident within or adjacent to the proposed vehicle storage area. A small 75 foot diameter wet area is located approximately 300 yards to the northeast of the proposed site. This area lays below the eastern crest of the hill and above the surface water gradient of the wrecking facility location.

Waste antifreeze, gasoline, and lubricating oils contain petroleum distillates, heavy metals, and toxic compounds which if improperly disposed of can cause surface and ground water degradation. The applicant proposes to drain automotive fluids at his shop and store them in barrels. Antifreeze will be recycled or reused and motor oils and gasoline will be burned for energy in a oil burning furnace.

Some lubricating oils and antifreeze may drip from the vehicles stored at the facility. This residual drippage is not expected to be significant or result in heavy accumulations.

Several domestic water wells are located approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the proposed wrecking facility location. The depth of these wells are estimated to be between 80 to 140 feet. One well is a community water supply serving five families and is reportedly a free flowing artisan well.

Due to the proposed automotive fluid handling method, site hydrogeology and topography, the potential of ground or surface water degradation from this proposed facility is considered extremely low.

## 5. Aesthetics

The location of this proposed wrecking facility is completely surrounded by a dense stand of mature evergreen trees approximately 30 to 40 feet in height. This location is approximately 1,400 feet east and 75 feet above Highway 2. This location is well shielded from Highway 2 and all area public roads. The aesthetics of the surrounding area should not be impacted by the proposed facility's use of existing natural shielding.

## 9. Historical and archaeological sites

No known historical or archaeological sites are located within the boundaries of this proposed wrecking facility.





## Potential Impact of Human Environment

3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income
8. Quantity and distribution of employment

The development of this facility will assist in the business growth of the Coram Motors Auto Body Shop. The operation of the vehicle wrecking facility may not require any additional employees. However, the establishment of this facility may increase the business capabilities of the body shop which may in turn require additional employees. This employment and the employment requirements for the support services this business will utilize should provide a positive employment impact for the community.

The establishment of this facility and its economic spinoff in the existing body shop may increase the overall payroll of the community and provide increased local and state tax bases.

10. Demands for governmental services

The issuance of a motor vehicle wrecking facility license will require administrative and inspection services of the State Department of Health and the Flathead County Junk Vehicle Program personnel.

11. Industrial and commercial activity

The establishment of the motor vehicle recycling and wrecking facility will provide a commercial source of used automotive parts. The reconditioning and reuse of parts provides a cost savings to the consumer and conserves energy and natural resources. Parts which can not be reconditioned or reused will be crushed and shipped to a secondary metals market for recycling.

13. Locally adopted environmental plans and goals

The location of this proposed wrecking facility is not currently zoned as certified by the Flathead County Regional Planning Department.

14. Transportation networks and traffic flows

The establishment of this business may increase the traffic flow patterns on Highway 2 leading to the facility. These increased traffic flows are not anticipated to significantly impact the traffic handling or load capabilities of this Highway.





